



## Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/1998/1184  
17 December 1998  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH AND FRENCH

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LETTER DATED 17 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention and to the attention of the members of the Security Council certain provisions of the draft resolution contained in document S/1998/1183 which run counter to the provisions of the Settlement Plan and infringe our national interests.

In the draft resolution's third preambular paragraph, the Security Council welcomes the stated position of the Government of Morocco and "the formal acceptance by the POLISARIO Front to implement the package of measures contained in paragraph 2 of the report of the Secretary-General" (S/1998/1160).

This preambular paragraph does not accurately reflect the actual state of affairs. The Moroccan Government did indeed welcome the Secretary-General's arbitration in favour of the 65,000 applicants. With regard to the package of measures proposed by the Secretary-General, however, the Moroccan Government has already drawn the attention of the Security Council to the fact that the simultaneity of the identification and appeals processes is not in conformity with the Plan. It has also communicated to the Secretary-General its position on the various protocols submitted to it and is awaiting his response.

As to commending the other party for its acceptance of the package of measures, such praise is, to say the least, unjustified.

Nowhere does the draft resolution mention the four years that have been lost because of the other party, the last year being the year that has elapsed since Houston.

Nor does the draft resolution mention that the recommendation made by the Secretary-General in November 1995, which was the subject of a resolution (issued provisionally) and resolved the problem of the tribal groupings in a fair and equitable manner, was simply withdrawn under pressure from certain quarters.



In any event, the main feature of the Secretary-General's package of measures, simultaneity, does not affect the other party, since identification of the applicants presented by that party has already been completed.

Furthermore, the protocol on refugees concerns one of the host countries, rather than the other party.

Under paragraph 1 of the draft resolution (S/1998/1183), the Security Council would decide to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 31 January 1999 to allow for further consultations on the Secretary-General's proposals.

It would be preferable not to limit those discussions by preventing any discussion of the problems encountered, as is the intention in the last phrase of paragraph 1, which asks that the integrity of the measures proposed not be undermined, nor the main elements of the Secretary-General's package called into question.

The Moroccan Government does not share the view expressed by the Security Council in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution that the implementation of the Secretary-General's proposal on simultaneity "could clearly demonstrate the willingness of the parties to accelerate the referendum process".

Indeed, the Moroccan Government has already drawn the Council's attention to the fact that this simultaneity is not in conformity with the Settlement Plan.

Furthermore, in its response to the Secretary-General, the Moroccan Government has drawn attention to the negative repercussions of the implementation of this proposal in its present form with respect to the political situation and the maintenance of order in the region.

We hope that the Security Council will take the legitimate concerns of the Moroccan Government into consideration in the draft resolution in order to make it possible for it to abide by the resolution with little difficulty once it is adopted.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSE  
Ambassador

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General Assembly  
Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/53/759  
S/1998/1185  
17 December 1998  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Fifty-third session  
Agenda item 54  
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION  
OF AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 17 December 1998 from the Permanent  
Representative of Mexico to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the communiqué issued yesterday by the Government of Mexico concerning the situation in Iraq (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Manuel TELLO  
Permanent Representative of Mexico  
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Press release issued on 16 December 1998 by the  
Government of Mexico

With regard to the attack that took place in Iraq today, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to state the following:

The Government of Mexico has followed closely and with deep concern the events that have developed following the submission to the Security Council today of reports on Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations authorities responsible for monitoring compliance with Security Council resolutions.

On the basis of its foreign policy principles as set out in article 89, section X, of the Constitution, the Government of Mexico regrets that it was not possible to reach a solution through the diplomatic channel and that recourse was had to the use of force, to the detriment of a lasting political solution.

The Government of Mexico reaffirms its conviction that in order to reach a definitive solution to this dispute in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, it is imperative that the procedures provided for in international law be followed and that the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, which Mexico fully supports, be implemented in their entirety.

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Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/1998/1186  
17 December 1998  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

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LETTER DATED 17 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement made on 17 December 1998 by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, in connection with the situation concerning Iraq (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV



Annex

Statement by the President of the Russian Federation

On the morning of 17 December 1998, the United States of America and the United Kingdom launched missile and bomb strikes on installations in Iraq. The attacks have claimed human lives and caused serious material damage.

Such a turn of events, which the Russian Federation has resolutely opposed, gives rise to the most serious concern and a feeling of indignation and profound alarm. The resolutions adopted by the Security Council do not give any grounds for such action. By carrying out an unprovoked act of force, the United States and the United Kingdom have committed a gross violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the generally accepted principles of international law and the norms and rules for the responsible conduct of States in international affairs. The strike was made just when the Security Council was discussing the question of Iraq.

In point of fact, such action undermines the entire system of international security, the central link of which is the United Nations and the Security Council. The Russian Federation has consistently made intensive efforts to ensure the speedy settlement of the problem of Iraq. We remain convinced that the possibilities for a political and diplomatic solution of the Iraqi crisis are far from exhausted. This has been borne out by the fact that Iraq has, on the whole, cooperated regularly with the United Nations in recent months.

The fact that the countries that carried out this act of force did not consider it possible to continue to seek a solution through political means arouses indignation. The military strikes have seriously damaged the arduous work of recent years to achieve a post-crisis settlement of the situation in the Persian Gulf and to dismantle Iraq's capacity to produce weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery.

The Russian Federation demands an immediate cessation of the military acts of force and calls for restraint and prudence in order to prevent a further escalation of the conflict, which is fraught with serious consequences not only for an Iraqi settlement but also for stability in the region as a whole. The problem of Iraq can be solved only through political and diplomatic means on the basis of compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions and international law.

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## Security Council

Distr.  
GENERALS/1998/1187  
17 December 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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LETTER DATED 17 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.  
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon the instruction of my Government, I am writing to inform you of the positions of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on your report prepared pursuant to resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998) and 1203 (1998) of the Security Council dated 4 December 1998 (S/1998/1147).

At the outset, let me point out that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia noted with satisfaction that the report presents the situation in Kosovo and Metohija in a balanced and fairly objective way. This is particularly true of the data which demonstrate that the humanitarian situation is constantly improving and that temporarily displaced persons are returning to their homes and which are substantiated by concrete information about the number of returnees and the locations of return. Of particular significance is the fact that the report renders clear indications of the direct responsibility of "Kosovo Albanian paramilitary units" for threats to the security of citizens in Kosovo and Metohija, providing concrete data about provocations, the abduction of civilians and members of security forces and other acts of unprovoked violence which put the resumption of dialogue and the achievement of political solutions to all outstanding issues in Kosovo and Metohija in serious jeopardy. Highlighting, in the report, of the tactics of the "Kosovo Albanian paramilitary units" of taking over positions vacated by security forces is revelatory of their destructive intents and separatist goals, which run counter to Security Council resolutions and relevant agreements.

Nevertheless, it is still in order to bring forth some facts, which, regrettably, were not adequately reflected in the report. Bearing in mind that the paramount interest of the international community is to stabilize the situation in Kosovo and Metohija as soon as possible and to achieve lasting and just solutions by political means, it is necessary to state clearly and unequivocally which obstacles stand in the way and who is responsible. In that sense, the prevarication as to only too obvious inferences about the responsibility of the political leaders of the Albanian national minority for the impasse in the political dialogue is of no avail. The repeated call on the authorities and the leaders of the Albanian political parties alike to resume dialogue equates those who favour dialogue and proffer concrete proposals with those who obstruct dialogue on a continual basis. For all intents and purposes,



such a position condones the side which, consistently and provocatively, refuses to fulfil the demands contained in relevant resolutions of the Security Council for, and statements of the Contact Group on, an immediate and unconditional resumption of dialogue. This improper division of responsibility for the failure to restart dialogue may indeed be grist to the mill of the separatist forces in Kosovo and Metohija, which are bent on achieving their illegitimate goals. Furthermore, the report is surprisingly reluctant to condemn terrorism and brand the activities of the "Kosovo Albanian paramilitary units" as terrorist, even though it is done in relevant resolutions of the Security Council in which Albanian politicians in Kosovo and Metohija are called to condemn terrorism publicly.

Although the Security Council adopted resolution 1160 (1998), which is binding on all United Nations Member States, the report, prepared in part pursuant to that resolution, makes no reference to the continued violations of the resolution by the Republic of Albania, which has become a safe haven for terrorist organizations and international organized crime, including mujahedeens and narco-mafia. Frequent serious incidents on the Yugoslav-Albanian border (172 in the past eight months) and flagrant violations of the integrity and territorial sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are some of the very salient features of the policy of the Republic of Albania of aiding and abetting separatism and terrorism in Kosovo and Metohija and subverting international efforts aimed at reaching a political solution and lasting stability. This policy, rooted in the expansionist idea of creating a "Greater Albania" at the expense of neighbouring countries, has become a serious threat to peace and stability in the region.

The reference in the report to a "ceasefire" is obfuscatory, as it implies the existence of a war conflict. There has been no war or armed conflict in Kosovo and Metohija; instead, there were legal actions by security forces against terrorists. Upon completing its task of neutralizing the terrorists, the police ceased all anti-terrorist operations, on 27 September 1998. Sporadic terrorist actions amount to attempts to cause tension, divert international attention and undermine the efforts aimed at finding a peaceful solution by political means.

I take this opportunity to remind you that the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of its constituent republic, the Republic of Serbia, are firmly committed to the quest for a peaceful and political solution in Kosovo and Metohija. This commitment has been evinced also by the joint proposal on an agreement on the political frameworks on self-governance in Kosovo and Metohija, of which, regrettably, no mention was made in the report. The joint proposals reflects the principled position that the ultimate text of the agreement can be reached solely through dialogue between the State delegation and representatives of all ethnic communities operating on an equal footing and that it should not be the outcome of imposition, prejudging or overruling.

Cognizant of your resolve to report on the situation in Kosovo and Metohija most responsibly, I wish to assure you that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia stands ready to support you in that undertaking and to extend to you full assistance in the future.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter published as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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General Assembly  
Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/53/760  
S/1998/1188  
17 December 1998  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Fifty-third session  
Agenda item 54  
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION OF  
AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 17 December 1998 from the Permanent  
Representative of Belarus to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement made on 17 December 1998 by the President of Belarus concerning the missile and bomb strikes against Iraq (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. Sychou  
Permanent Representative of  
Belarus to the United Nations

Annex

Statement made on 17 December 1998 by the President  
of Belarus

The missile and bomb strikes against Iraq by the United States of America and the United Kingdom on 17 December 1998 are a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and go far beyond the scope of Security Council resolutions concerning Iraq.

Belarus believes that actions by States or coalitions of States in circumvention of the Security Council, which has primary responsibility for, and plays a central role in, the maintenance of international peace and security, are unacceptable.

The use of force by the international community is an extraordinary and extreme measure that can be invoked only in cases of a serious threat to international peace and security and when the political and diplomatic possibilities for settling the conflict have been exhausted.

Belarus calls upon the United States of America and the United Kingdom to halt immediately their strikes against Iraq. Belarus also hopes that Iraq will comply fully and without delay with all the relevant Security Council resolutions.

A solution in keeping with the interests of international peace and security and the imperatives of international law should be found within the framework of the Security Council and should be strictly observed by all members of the international community. This applies, above all, to the permanent members of the Security Council.

The missile and bomb strikes do not solve the problem; they cause the death of innocent civilians and destabilize the situation in the entire region.

Belarus is deeply distressed at the attempt to solve problems of international security by the use of force and in contravention of Security Council resolutions, which seriously undermines the existing system of international security and international law.

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General Assembly  
Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/53/761  
S/1998/1189  
17 December 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Fifty-third session  
Agenda item 62  
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL  
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 16 December 1998 from the Permanent  
Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 7 December 1998, I have the honour to draw your attention to a new violation of the National Airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by a military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 13 December 1998:

On that day one VIP C-650 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia flight information region violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the National Airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying over the area of Karpasia and exiting thereafter in a south-easterly direction.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the National Airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus which state that such overflights increase tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest this new provocative act by Turkey against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. The frequency and intensity of airspace violations are a further reminder of Turkey's offensive disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

Furthermore, the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force, as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.



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S/1998/1189  
English  
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I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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## Security Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

S/1998/1190  
17 December 1998  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

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LETTER DATED 17 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
YEMEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement by the Government of Yemen, which was issued by the Yemeni News Agency, concerning the attack by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdalla Saleh AL-ASHTAL  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



Annex

Statement issued on 17 December 1998 by the Government of Yemen

The Government of Yemen is following with deep sadness the situation with regard to the attack by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq, a fraternal country. It condemns this blatant act of aggression and reaffirms that the use of force, the application of double standards and the selective interpretation of resolutions adopted by international organizations are unlikely to establish security and stability in the region. Accordingly, it calls upon the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom to put an immediate end to this attack and to lift all the restrictions imposed on the people of Iraq, whose sufferings are being inflicted in defiance of humanitarian principles and moral values.

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